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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

IN CHARGE OF

LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N.

THE NEXT INTERNATIONAL

The Board of Directors of the American Nurses' Association, by an action taken at their meeting in Chicago, on June 27th, are inviting the Executive Committee of the International Council of Nurses, to meet with the three American national bodies; viz., The American Nurses' Association, the National League of Nursing Education, and the National Organization for Public Health Nursing, at their next regular meetings at Atlanta, Georgia, in the early part of April, 1920.

The Executive Committee of the International, consists of the honorary and elected officers, for the current term, of each national association or council in membership. If these officers could meet with us, or if even a few of them could be present, it would give an opportunity for going over the international situation and laying plans for a gradual re-knitting of broken threads.

The new developments of world-nursing in connection with the vast projects for public health conservation, recently put forth by the Red Cross, and the intimations put forth by high officials of the Red Cross, that the new activities shall not only be directed toward public health nursing, but toward the extermination of *war*, suggest to us the possibility of our International Council being overshadowed by larger international meetings in which, as nurses, we shall wish to take an active part; for it is clear that all this extension of public health work will mean that nurses must be active co-partners, on a full equality with other members of the new Red Cross International. But while we may be overshadowed, at least for a time, with every one still full to the brim of their all-absorbing war activities and those arising out of the war, we must not let ourselves be undermined.

We must remember that the original and foremost aim of the International Council of Nurses, was to help and encourage in every country, the growth of *self governing societies of nurses*. This will not be accomplished until every country has free nursing associations. The extension of woman suffrage in Europe has brought this aim much nearer, but there is still work for our International to do before it may allow itself to be absorbed by bigger forces, however good they may be.